

Research Subcommittee

John A. Roark, chair

02/14/08

Charge One – Examine current status of UK research involving international focus

- A. Present Barriers – There is no centralized database which accurately captures all international research/program projects. Often the databases used reflect inaccurate information or the information is in a format that makes it difficult to retrieve.
- B. Findings – According to the Sponsored Program Information Files (SPIFi) approximately 46 international research/program projects at UK.
- C. Actions taken – Reviewed criteria for the proposed UK Faculty Database.
- D. Recommendations for future action – That the UK adopt a Faculty Database which includes parameters for tracking international research/program projects.

- Barriers to implementation – Cost; implementation into other UK systems

Charge Two – Articulate objective to increase international research activity, in ways congruent with departmental and collegiate objectives and missions as outlined in the strategic reports and outline strategies for assessment

- A. Present Barriers – There are many inconsistencies in the strategic plans and mission statements for the University and the individual colleges

Findings – The University Strategic Plan states:

Prepare Students for Leadership in the Knowledge Economy and Global Society

Objective 2 is:

The university will increase opportunities for international and multicultural educational experiences for its students. Being a Top 20 university in the 21st Century means being engaged effectively in the international educational marketplace. UK must build aggressively on its longstanding relationships with educational institutions in other countries to form new partnerships for the exchange of students. Every UK student must develop a broad international perspective through curricular, extracurricular, on-campus, and off-campus experiences.

- B. Many colleges do not mention internationalization in their strategic plans and those that do are brief and incomplete

- C. Actions taken – Reviewed the strategic plans of the various colleges in light of the strategic plan for the University.
 - D. Recommendations for future action – that the University incorporate internationalization into its Strategic Plan in detail and that the colleges adopt strategic plans compatible with the University.
- Barriers to implementation – Would require all Colleges to agree to adopt a cohesive plan

Charge Three – Identify barriers to expanded international research

- A. Present Barriers – There is a lack of centralized administration for encouraging international research.
 - B. Findings – The University should encourage international research/program projects by providing financial assistance to help projects get started.
 - C. Actions taken – We met with Jim Tracy, Vice President for research and looked at how his office might assist projects getting started.
 - D. Recommendations for future action – That, where possible, the Research Office should assist with starting projects that show promise of becoming self-sustaining financially.
- Barriers to implementation – Availability of funds

Charge Four – Recommend structures/mechanisms to encourage or support international research

- A. Present Barriers – Several attempts have been made to have centralized administration of international research/program projects but none have been implemented.
- B. Findings - Faculty who engage in international research tend to do so on their own and have no way of knowing what linkages occur between others at the University and international partners.
- C. Actions taken – Reviewed previous findings from committees appointed at the University to study this issue. Looked at several models including the University of North Carolina. A committee member talked with the Director at UNC concerning their structure.
- D. Recommendations for future action – That the University develop a centralized structure for international research/program projects emanating from the Provost's Office.

- Barriers to implementation – Availability of funds; some control given by various University entities to a centralized office.

Charge Five – Assist Inventory Subcommittee in planning the gathering and input of research data

- A. Present Barriers – no central collection of information, by UK or at all College levels.
 - B. Findings – deans are willing to collect c.v.'s for this purpose, bi-annually; UK is willing to throw its support behind either the Faculty Database or the vendor-produced Digital Measures, as the sustainable means to track not only international research but campus-wide research.
 - C. Actions taken – The Chair has met with the Chair of the Inventory Subcommittee to explain how and where the Research departments collect information presently. Colleges of A&S and Pharmacy selected as “pilots” for data entry, in conjunction with health/medical colleges which are already using Faculty Database. Graduate student hired, and currently inputting data from College of A&S, dept by dept.
 - D. Recommendations for future action –encourage Institutional Research to finalize decision on Faculty Database vs. Digital Measures, and create sustainable mechanism for tracking international research activity.
- A) - Barriers to implementation – delayed decision on Digital Measures; therefore delayed decision on whether to input only international research activity or all research activity in order to fulfill our charge.

Charge Six – Produce intermediate report (for January Task Force meeting) and final recommendations/goals (by May)

- A. Present Barriers – None.
- B. Findings – Report written.
- C. Actions taken – Report submitted.
- D. Recommendations for future action – Preparation for final report in May.

Challenges to Data Collection

Additional opportunities/barriers

